

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Thomas Coury, a man who labored for the people and gave to his community all that he had to offer.

Mr. Coury is survived by his wife, Theresa; a son, Thomas J.; daughters, Teri Strimpel and Tracy A. Ade; six grandchildren; three brothers and two sisters.

HONORING EDWARD ALEXANDER  
BOUCHET FOR OUTSTANDING  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 12, 1998*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Beta Tau Boule Chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is memorializing a man whose lifetime achievements can only be described as inspiring. As a resident of New Haven, Connecticut, Edward Alexander Bouchet was both an accomplished physicist and educator—described as a consummate scholar, very knowledgeable in all areas, yet extremely modest and a person who set a wonderful example of politeness and graciousness for the community.

Born in 1852, Edward Bouchet grew to be an exceptional figure in African American history. Bouchet's accomplishments as a leader in the academic achievements of African Americans are a true legacy to their heritage. Bouchet became not only the first African American to obtain a doctorate in any discipline, but one of the first six to be honored with a Doctorate in Physics in the Western Hemisphere and one of the few among many entitled to wear the Phi Beta Kappa Key.

The countless lives which he touched as he traveled the country, were inspired by this remarkable man. Dr. Bouchet has been described by former students as the contributing factor to continue and go on to greater achievements in higher education. Dr. Bouchet's quiet, scholarly life reflects a deep devotion to teaching and good works.

Returning to New Haven in 1916, Dr. Bouchet was laid to rest in his place of birth two years later. Today, I am honored to join with Paul McCraven and the Beta Tau Boule Chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and the many sponsors, as they commemorate the outstanding lifetime achievements of Doctor Edward Alexander Bouchet with the unveiling of a new burial monument. His lifelong dedication to education and his contributions to African-American history set in stone—a legacy never to be forgotten.

TOM BRADLEY TRIBUTE

**HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 12, 1998*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in tribute to the former mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and a friend, the late honorable Tom Bradley. Mayor Bradley was a trailblazer and a leader among leaders. History will record that Tom Bradley was the first Black mayor of Los Angeles. He led that city through two decades that were often filled with

tumultuous social change. Mayor Bradley integrated Los Angeles' City Hall from the top down and in so doing he inspired courage and success throughout the nation's Black community.

Those who knew Mayor Bradley, knew him as a soft-spoken man who came from humble origins, a share cropper's son who was so dedicated to public service he rose to become a world class leader. Tom Bradley spent his life crossing racial barriers and fighting racism. He made many remarkable contributions to our nation and forever changed our society for the better. Today we celebrate the legacy Tom Bradley gave us. We cherish his memory. May his spirit continue to guide us for generations to come.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3789, THE  
CLASS ACTION JURISDICTION  
ACT OF 1998

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 12, 1998*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3789, the Class Action Jurisdiction Act of 1998. This legislation severely hinders the rights of individuals seeking relief in the form of a State class action claim.

Under the current system, individuals with similar injuries but limited resources are able to seek compensation as a certified State class action. Beneficiaries of the current system include injured individuals that are seeking relief under State consumer protection laws. However, this measure seeks to remove certified class action claims from State to Federal court when any member of the plaintiff class is a citizen of a different State than the defendant.

Further, it eliminates the minimal claim amount currently required for a class action claim to be removed to Federal court. These provisions will only increase the difficulty of plaintiffs seeking relief when individual and widespread harm has been inflicted.

Whether the issue involves excessive amounts of judicial vacancies on the Federal bench, or the lack of judgeships within the system, the removal of State class action claims to the Federal court system will create an enormous caseload burden. Further, it is becoming more costly and time consuming for individuals seeking class action certification in Federal court under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. This combination is an affront to the basic rights of individuals seeking compensation in cases where the public's health and safety have been compromised.

Without regard for individuals subjected to careless and reckless health and safety violations, this measure provides significant protections and benefits to corporate America. As the 105th Congress debates proposals regarding health care, and environmental and consumer protections, H.R. 3789 will usurp the rights of individuals to seek relief through class action claims in States which provide stronger protections than currently provided under Federal law.

For example, enactment of this bill into law would provide a vehicle for removal of class action cases against the tobacco industry to

Federal court. Such changes will create further difficulties for claimants seeking compensation under more stringent Federal laws, while protecting the willful and reckless practices of these companies.

In addition, this bill would hinder class action claims against the gun manufacturing industry, since Federal courts are not likely to apply the forum State's laws with regard to the plaintiff's claims. Finally, this measure would further limit the already restricted abilities of ERISA-insured patients to seek the cost of benefits denied in a State court. Overall, this bill allows companies to engage in careless and damaging marketing, manufacturing, and service practices without regard for those who rely on their products.

Mr. Speaker, this special interest legislation provides further protections to major corporations who seek to avoid being held responsible for their reckless actions. Further, it unilaterally rescinds a reasonable mechanism for State courts to resolve cases brought before them, only to further overburden our Federal court system.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR.  
HELMUT SCHMIDT FOR HIS OUT-  
STANDING ACHIEVEMENTS TO  
THE FIELD OF MEDICINE

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 12, 1998*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay very special tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens, Dr. Helmut Siegfried Schmidt.

Dr. Schmidt is truly an internationally recognized scholar, who has worked tirelessly in pioneering an important aspect of medical science. Through outstanding leadership and unwavering vision, Dr. Schmidt burgeoned the field of sleep medicine.

Dr. Schmidt began his medical career in Canada. A graduate with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Toronto, he completed his one-year rotating internship at the Toronto East General Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. A few short years later, Dr. Schmidt extended his studies to the Buckeye State by completing his residency training at the Ohio State University Hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, not long after coming to Ohio and completing his formal medical training, Dr. Schmidt became a naturalized United States citizen. Upon taking his oath of citizenship in the early 1970's, he began a long and decorated service career in the United States Army Reserve achieving the rank of Colonel, and commanding several Hospital and Medical Units during his illustrious twenty-two year career. He is truly a great American patriot.

Dr. Schmidt's crowing achievements have been in the area of sleep medicine. In recent years, Dr. Schmidt has founded the Ohio Sleep Medicine Institute, the Sleep Medicine Research Foundation, and Sleep Medicine International. He was the first president of the American Board of Sleep Medicine, and chaired the Ohio Psychiatric Association Task Force on Sleep Medicine. Dr. Schmidt was awarded the Nathaniel Kleitman Distinguished Service Award—the highest award given in North America in the field of Sleep Disorders